



American Health Care Association

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August 6, 2007

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
Chairwoman
Small Business Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2466 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Velazquez:

On behalf of the American Health Care Association (AHCA), the nation's largest association representing providers of quality long term care, thank you for your robust commitment to ensuring Medicare beneficiaries have unfettered access to clinical laboratory services.

You are to be commended for the leadership that you have displayed by not only holding the July 25 hearing examining the impact of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services clinical laboratory services competitive billing demonstration project on small businesses, but also in introducing H.R. 3453 to repeal the authority for the aforementioned demonstration. AHCA especially appreciated the opportunity to testify before your Committee and share our thoughts on the effects of the demonstration on frail, elderly, and disabled nursing home patients.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that our nation's most vulnerable populations will continue to have ready access to quality long term care services, and in particular clinical laboratory services. Please let me know how we may continue to be helpful to you on this critically important issue.

Sincerely,

Bruce Yarwood
President & CEO

cc: Richard Herrick, New York State Health Facilities Association